

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04646 061928Z

ACTION NODS-00

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1/2

TAGS: MASS, IS, US, LE, PBOR, MOPS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND USE OF U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES

REF: STATE 087125

1. I MET WITH WEIZMAN FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF ON APRIL 6 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. I WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY COLONEL WILLIAMS. WEIZMAN CALLED IN ACTING DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, BRIGIDIER GENERAL SAGI AND LATER, GENERAL GUR.

2. I TOLD WEIZMAN THAT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF IDF THIN OUT AND THE INDICATION THAT THEY INTENDED TO COORDINATE FUTURE WITHDRAWALS WITH UNIFIL HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN KEEPING DOWN THE PRESSURE THIS WEEK. HOWEVER I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE NOW IN THE FOURTH WEEK AFTER ISRAELI ENTRANCE INTO SOUTH LEBANON AND THAT THE PRESSURES CONTINUED TO BUILD FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWAL AND FOR A DEFINITE LONG-RANGE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. I WENT THROUGH ALL OF TALKING POINTS IN PARA TWO OF REFTEL, ALTHOUGH IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SEQUENCE.

3. WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT CHEIF OF STAFF GUR HAD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04646 061928Z

3. WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT CHIEF OF STAFF GUR HAD MET TODAY WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO CONCERNING FUTURE WITHDRAWALS AND CALLED IN ACTING DMI SAGI, WHO HAD ACCCOMPANIED GUR DURING THE SIILASVUO MEETING, TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED. SAGI'S EXPLANATION NOT BEING TOTALLY CLEAR, WEIZMAN SUCCEEDED IN FINDING GUR HIMSELF WHO JOINED US. GUR WAS FRANK IN HIS DISUCSSION,

EMPHASIZING THAT THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE UN ON THE GROUND WOULD NOT ALWAYS ENABLE UNIFIL TO MEET THE POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, HE DESCRIBED TODAY'S MEETING WITH SIILASVUO AS BEING SATISFACTORY. GUR SAID THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW IN THE EASTERN SECTOR TO A LINE THAT GENERALLY EXTENDS FROM THE HERMON ABOUT TWO KMS NORTH OF AL MAJIDIYAH TO JUST NORTH OF AL MARI TO NORTH OF IBIL AS SAQY, AROUND THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE OF MARJ UYUN TO THE LITANI RIVER JUST SOUTH OF HASBIYYAH (EASTERN MOST) BRIDGE. THIS MOVE WILL TAKE PLACE BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE AREA TAKEN OVER BY THE UN AND SMALL ISRAELI FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE STATIONED IN THE ENCLAVE. THE SECOND WITHDRAWAL, TO TAKE PLACE ABOUT APRIL 14, WILL BE IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BY GUR AS THE "CENTRAL AREA." STARTING AT THE ISRAELI BORDER ABOUT ONE KM SOUTH OF AL 'UDAYSAH, IT WILL EXTEND WEST TO GHANDURIYAH AND FROM THERE NORTH TO THE RIVER. THE AKIA BRIDGE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AREA TURNED OVER TO THE UN. IDF FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE TAYYIBAH ROAD AS A LOGISTICAL ROUTE TO THE WEST.

4. GUR STATED THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO HAD AGREED THAT THE UN WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT STATING THAT HE AND GENERAL GUR HAD MET FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 04646 061928Z

FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH LEBANON. I SAID THAT THIS WAS GOOD, BUT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY THAT WE HAVE A FURTHER STATEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS PROVIDING A LONG-RANGE PROJECTION IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT SCHEDULE SO AS TO RESPOND TO THE POLITICAL PRESSURE IN NEW YORK. GUR IMMEDIATELY STATED THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM AT ALL IN SUCH A STATEMENT, QUALIFYING THIS BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE BASED ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE UN TO MOVE IN. WEIZMAN TOLD GUR TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PREPARATION OF SUCH A STATEMENT, TO INCLUDE THE CONDITIONS APPLICABLE FOR THE UN, AND TO COORDINATE IT WITH SIILASVUO. WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD SHOW IT TO US AS SOON AS IT IS PREPARED.

5. I THEN WENT ON TO THE TWO LETTERS SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE CONGRESS. I PROVIDED WEIZMAN WITH A COPY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED LETTER WHICH STATES THAT VIOLATIONS ON THE USE OF U.S.-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT "MAY HAVE" OCCURRED. WEIZMAN READ THE LETTER AND ACKNOWLEDGED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE QUESTION OF FURTHER ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT IS TO A GREAT DEAL

DEPENDENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION OF OUR CONCERN OVER ISRAEL PROVIDING EQUIPMENT TO THE CHRISTIANS, WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT HE HAS GIVEN AN ORDER THAT NO MORE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT IS TO BE MADE. AS FAR AS THE RETURN OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY PROVIDED TO THE CHRISTIANS IS CONCERNED, WEIZMAN SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE SITUATION BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POSITION AND WOULD BE GETTING BACK TO ME WITH AN ANSWER. I REEMPHASIZED THAT PROMPT COMPLIANCE WITH UN 425 IS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE ACTION CONCERNING BOTH THESE LETTERS AND THAT BOTH QUESTIONS REMAIN OPEN UNTIL WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 TEL AV 04646 061928Z

7. COMMENT: I WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IN SEPTELS. I FEEL SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY GUR'S ATTITUDE AND HIS APPRECIATION THAT A LONG-RANGE PLAN COULD BE DEVELOPED AND ANNOUNCED ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE UN'S CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO SUCH A PLAN. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, GUR WILL BE RETIRING FROM HIS POST AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

LEWIS

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